

Message Text

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USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 04266

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, SP, US

SUBJECT: SPANISH MILITARY PARTICIPATION IN THE U.S.-
SPANISH COUNCIL

1. THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT HAS, IN AN ORDER FROM THE
MINISTRY OF THE PRESIDENCY OF APRIL 18, MADE FORMAL
PROVISION FOR THE DEFENSE MINISTRY TO PARTICIPATE HENCE-
FORTH, AT A SENIOR LEVEL, IN THE U.S.-SPANISH COUNCIL,
IN ADDITION TO THE PARTICIPATION OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE
SPANISH JCS, WHICH IS PROVIDED FOR IN THE TREATY. THE
ORDER PROVIDES SPECIFICALLY THAT:

(A) THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE WILL BE PERMANENTLY INCLUDED
IN SPANISH REPRESENTATION ON THE COUNCIL, WITH THE
MINISTER OF DEFENSE NORMALLY PARTICIPATING IN MEETINGS AT
MINISTERIAL LEVEL (FOREIGN MINISTER/SECRETARY OF STATE),
BUT POSSIBLY BEING REPRESENTED BY THE UNDER SECRETARY OF
DEFENSE. IN THE CASE OF MEETINGS AT THE LEVEL OF
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES, THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WILL NORMALLY PARTICIPATE, BUT MAY DELEGATE THIS ROLE TO
THE MINISTRY'S SECRETARY GENERAL FOR DEFENSE POLICY OR TO
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OTHER OFFICIALS.

(B) THE DIRECT DEPENDENCE OF THE SPANISH SIDE OF THE
JOINT COMMITTEE FOR POLITICO-MILITARY ADMINISTRATIVE
AFFAIRS (PMAA) ON THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IS NOT ALTERED, BUT
THE SPANISH MILITARY CO-PRESIDENT WILL HENCEFORTH REPORT
ADMINISTRATIVELY TO THE OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF

DEFENSE, RATHER THAN TO THE CHIEF OF THE HIGH GENERAL STAFF. THIS WILL NOT PRECLUDE CONTINUED REPRESENTATION ON THE COMMITTEE FROM THE GENERAL STAFFS OF THE THREE SERVICES OR REPRESENTATION FROM THE SPANISH SIDE OF THE COMBINED MILITARY COORDINATION AND PLANNING STAFF, NOR WILL IT PREVENT DIRECT DEALINGS BETWEEN THE SPANISH MILITARY CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE PMAA AND THE CHIEFS OF STAFF WHEN APPROPRIATE. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS, WHO IS ALSO CHIEF OF THE HIGH GENERAL STAFF, RETAINS AN INFORMATIONAL LINK TO THE SPANISH MILITARY CO-CHAIRMAN.

2. COMMENT: THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JCS REMAINS FORMALLY THE PERMANENT SPANISH MILITARY REPRESENTATIVE ON THE COUNCIL, AS PROVIDED IN ARTICLE II OF SUPPLEMENTARY AGREEMENT 1 OF THE TREATY. THE ADDITION OF SENIOR DEFENSE MINISTRY REPRESENTATION IS AN INEVITABLE RESULT OF THE FORMATION, SINCE THE TREATY CAME INTO EFFECT, OF THIS MINISTRY. THE CHANGES AFFECTING THE PMAA SHOULD HAVE NO IMPORTANT IMPACT ON THE DAY-TO-DAY WORK OF THAT JOINT COMMITTEE.

3. WE HAVE MADE CLEAR TO THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT THAT THE U.S. WILL PROBABLY NOT BE IN A POSITION TO MATCH THEIR LEVEL OF DEFENSE MINISTRY PARTICIPATION IN MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL AND HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT THIS IS NOT EXPECTED. HOWEVER, IT WOULD BE UNREALISTIC TO EXPECT THAT IN FUTURE
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MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL THERE WILL NOT BE PRESSURES FROM THE OFFICE OF THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE FOR HIGH-LEVEL PARTICIPATION FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE. THIS IS MORE LIKELY TO BE THE CASE WHEN THE COUNCIL MEETS IN WASHINGTON OR NEW YORK THAN WHEN IT MEETS IN MADRID.
STABLER

NOTE BY OCT: MESSAGE DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.

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